

Week of April 7, 2003: MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Work Zone Safety

See web link for additional Work Zone crash data.

Monday:

Opener:

It's National Work Zone Awareness Week and the MaineDOT is giving Maine school children reasons to remind their parents to drive safely in Work Zones. More after the break.

Flash Facts:

Children love to tell their parents what to do, and the MaineDOT is taking advantage of it. This is National Work Zone Awareness Week, and 4th graders all over the state are turning into Backseat Drivers. By competing to make a new work zone safety sign, kids are learning about driving safely in work zones. Our Backseat Drivers know their parents should:

- Watch for the color orange - cones, signs and barrels alert drivers to Work Zones.
- Drive at the posted speed limit - which can vary from Work Zone to Work Zone.
- Pay attention and watch for people working - those workers could be somebody's mom or dad.

Keep tuned to WGME News at 6 tomorrow night to find out which school won the grand prize in the sign contest. (Scroll finalists' schools across the bottom?) And remember to Be A Road Model and drive safely through Work Zones.

Wednesday:

Opener:

As the weather warms up, we'll start to see an increase in the number of Work Zones in Maine. Ever wonder who's most likely to be injured in a Work Zone? Last year in Maine, there were 750 crashes in work zones, resulting in 3 fatalities and over 300 injuries. The MaineDOT wants you to know that driving through work zones can be most dangerous for the driver. Find out after the break.

Flash Facts:

Ever wonder who's most likely to be injured in a Work Zone? The truth is, most crashes involve only the travelers passing through work zones. The MaineDOT asks drivers to be very careful for *everyone's* sake when traveling through Work Zones. Here are some important tips:

- Do not change lanes or pass in Work Zones.
- At merges, move left or right as soon as possible to minimize sudden braking and delays.

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- Watch for flaggers and follow their instructions. Their job is to keep everyone moving and safe.
- Watch for speed limit signs and obey them.

Be A Road Model - drive carefully in Work Zones.

Friday:

Opener:

Most people know that the fine for speeding in Work Zones can be doubled. But how many people know what the speed limit really is? This is National Work Zone Awareness Week, and the MaineDOT wants to set the record straight.

- There are hundreds of Work Zones in Maine each year. Work Zones are on the Interstate, bridges, Rte. 1, and hundreds of other highways and secondary roads.
- Work zones may be short term such as on utility lines, tree trimming or mowing.
- Expect reduced speed limits. They are based on lane width, the type of work being done, presence of people and equipment, the amount of curve in the road and other criteria.
- The answer is - there is no set speed limit in Work Zones. Watch for signs, pay attention and drive carefully.

Be A Road Model - don't speed in Work Zones.